

Black Hills Audubon Society

Olympia, Washington

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March/April 2010



BHAS Annual Dinner/Auction

The BHAS Annual Dinner/Auction Potluck Dinner will take place on **Saturday, March 6**, starting at **5 pm** at the **Olympia Center**. Several weeks ago, you should have received your invitation to attend the event featuring a talk by David Jennings on *The Underwater Wildlife of Puget Sound*. We hope that you are planning to attend and have returned your RSVP card.

We also hope that some of you will be willing to help with setting up the venue. Set-up begins at 1:30 pm. And we also hope that some of you attending will be willing to lag behind for cleanup after the event. The more who help, the easier and shorter the effort.

If by any chance you failed to respond to the invitation in a timely manner, please call Margery Beeler (360-352-5437) or Meagan Thorn (360-754-5557) to see if space is available. Please call Margery or Meagan if you have any questions about what to bring.

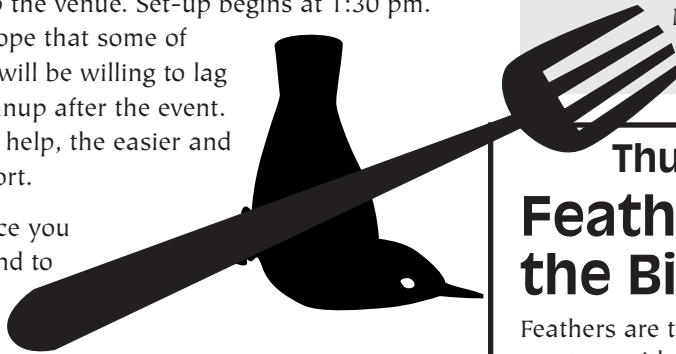
This year's Auction will be Silent-only and if you have an item for inclusion you need to contact Margery or Meagan before March 4. If you bring an unannounced item to the event, we will be happy to hold it for the 2011 Auction.

We look forward to seeing you on March 6! 🦋

The Annual Dinner takes the place of the March program.

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Thursday, April 15 Feathers are for the Bird(er)s

Feathers are the most complex covering of any creature with a backbone. But all Audubon members know that the primary purpose of feathers is to assist birders to identify birds. This month's talk will cover other aspects of feathers. Chris Maynard will discuss feather structure, function, and above all, beauty while showing photographs that capture form, color, and patterns in single feathers divorced from the bird. 🦋

(See the article by Chris about "Fun with Swallows and Feathers" on the back page of this issue of The Echo.)

General membership meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through June, at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Street, in Olympia.

Afoot and Afield with High Schoolers

Debbie Nickerson, BHAS Education Chair

Thanks to the donations and energy of many people, BHAS was able to offer a field trip to the Skagit River and Flats on Saturday, January 30th. Patt Brady and Fred Fiedler were the successful bidders of a “Day with Bill Tweit” at a recent auction but decided to include in their win a group of high school students from Black Hills High School and other adult volunteers for Audubon. So altogether about 40 people went on a grand trip to see birds up on the Skagit.

The generosity of the chapter’s board made it possible to charter a comfortable bus for the day and several stores donated healthy food for students. Patt, a tireless event organizer was responsible for soliciting donations, contracting with the bus company, managing our trip guides and gathering two boxes of extra clothing in case some teens came unprepared.

Our own Whittier Johnson and Bill Tweit led the trip educating participants about the birds’ wintering behaviors, annual salmon runs, and little known

facts of the area and its wildlife. The information, coupled with their humorous anecdotes, kept us listening attentively.

All the students were impressed with the trip. One told us she thought it would be rather boring looking at birds but really had a great time. Another said how impressed she was with all she saw and will not look at birds the same way again. Observing snow geese flock together for protection from birds of prey and human hunters was fascinating and brought out expressions of awe and excitement from the group.

Thank you to all who organized and saw this project through to fruition; it had a huge impact on twenty-some young people. Thanks to the following stores for giving us food for nutritious snacks the entire day: Albertsons of Tumwater; Costco of Tumwater; Fred Meyer of Tumwater; Grocery Outlet – Westside of Olympia; Mega Foods of Tumwater; Ralph’s Thriftway; Tumwater Safeway; and Top Foods of Olympia – Westside. 🐾

2010 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Friday, April 30th, 7pm: Dessert Reception

Keynote Speaker: Craig Lee, *Bird Conservation Without Borders*

We all know that shorebirds migrate and that our conservation efforts in Grays Harbor seek to secure an essential stopping point along the route. But without comparable efforts all along the Pacific Coast of the continent, these avian travelers could easily be lost—permanently. Luckily for those of us who appreciate the seasonal shorebird spectacle in Washington State, and value the survival of each species, National Audubon Society has an international program that helps unite conservation efforts throughout the Hemisphere. This presentation will illuminate the challenges that migrating shorebirds face, the places they go—as they have for millennia—and the dedicated conservationists who are working to ensure that the journey remains safe.



Some Information about Craig Lee

Craig is the founder and director of National Audubon Society’s International Alliances Program

(IAP) and a national Vice President. His program builds the effectiveness of organizations working on the conservation of birds and biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. IAP is currently active at Important Bird Areas in seven countries. Before joining Audubon, Craig served for two decades as Vice President and Northwest (U.S.) Regional Director for the Trust for Public Land. Craig has advised the start-up and organizational development of over 40 land trusts and conservation organizations in Canada, the U.S., and Latin America. He currently serves on the Executive of the Americas Council of BirdLife International and on the boards of Bahamas National Trust and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts.

This event will be held at Central Elementary School in Hoquiam, Washington starting at 7pm. For reservations, contact 1-800-303-8498. Cost is \$15. 🐾



Birding in Earnest; December 2009 – January 2010

By Bill Shelmerdine

To reports sightings call 866-9106 or email at georn1@hotmail.com

So far its been a pretty quiet winter, birdwise, and January's calm weather has not really stirred things up. The Christmas Bird Count on December 20 was a good indicator of the period; most of the regulars were seen, but nothing particularly unusual showed up. Probably more remarkable was the near absence of several species or groups. From my perspective numbers were down for several species of waterfowl, and sparrows, and where the heck were/are the gulls this year?

Perry Creek (Mud Bay area) often hosts hundreds of gulls, with a good mix of species. Their presence there is timed to the chum salmon run. Numbers this year were dismal, and to my knowledge were nothing to shout about throughout the region. The situation makes one wonder whether this is a gull story, a salmon story, or just a bad year for gulls in our area. Visits in late December and early January revealed only small numbers of **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and hybrids. I thought Keith Brady summed it up nicely when he reported a single gull from Perry Creek in early January. I did not think to ask which species.

On the brighter side, some waterfowl numbers seemed really good. **Cackling Geese** numbers on

the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) were good (2750 recorded at Nisqually), continuing the increasing trend of birds wintering in our area. **Green-wing Teal** numbers on CBC day were nothing short of impressive. Scott Pearson and I tallied almost 3800 at Nisqually that day; the estuary restoration at the Refuge really seems to have benefited that species in particular. Gadwall on the other hand were notable by their absence; we counted only one on count-day. Reports of waterfowl on Capitol Lake noted reduced numbers throughout the period. Keith Brady and Bill Tweit both commented on low numbers at the lake, though most or all of the regulars have been present.

To round out reports for the period, Bill Tweit reported 6 **Trumpeter Swans** at Capitol Lake on 1/3. This seems to be a typical pattern of occurrence in our area. While they don't seem to winter regularly in the South Sound, they are regular to the north, south, and west. Often missed on the CBC, small groups wander through the area and in the past few years have been reported regularly right around the first of the year. And finally, on 1/3, Bill also reported an **Orange-crowned Warbler** from the Capitol Lake area. This is a species that winters rarely in our area.

Looking ahead: for those that don't leave a hummingbird feeder out in the winter, it's time to dust them off, fill them up, and hang them out. Rufous Hummingbirds are among the earliest migrants or spring arrivals to our area and often show up around the end of February or the first of March. Early arrival dates, or first arrivals are always of interest. Other early migrants to look for include Tree and Violet-green Swallows and are often first reported from Nisqually or the Chehalis River area. 🐦

BHAS 2009 Annual Appeal—A Hearty **Thank You!**

The BHAS Board of Directors thanks the many members who responded to our annual fundraising appeal in late 2009. Due to your generosity, the chapter received almost \$5500. This represented 100 separate donations, ranging from \$5 to \$300. Monies raised will go towards the chapter's efforts in protecting habitat through sensible land use regulations and land conservation, educating the public about wildlife science, and creating field opportunities for youth. 🐦

Donate to BHAS through Amazon Purchases

Reminder: If you buy something through Amazon.com, you could be donating to Black Hills Audubon Society at the same time.

BHAS receives 4% of every purchase made through our Book Store Web page (<http://www.blackhills-audubon.org/bookstore/index.html>). These funds are used to support our conservation program, education efforts, and other goals. Our prices are exactly the same as Amazon.com! All purchases are managed by Amazon.com. 🐦

The 3rd Annual Birdathon is coming in May

Why should you participate in BHAS's annual Birdathon? Because Washington's native birds and their habitat need your protection. One of the most effective ways you can help is by joining together with your fellow Audubon members, celebrate Washington's birds and raise funds for Black Hills Audubon Society.

Anyone can participate—as a sponsor, a birder or both!

You do not need to be an expert birder. If you're entirely new to Birdathon, it works like a walk-a-thon. Birdathoners will collect pledges for finding and counting bird species. It's a competitive and educational event for any level of birdwatcher, as well as for the family and friends who cheer them on. You can join our guided trips, organize your own trip, or count independently. All guided trips are led by birding experts and are a great way to

make new friends and connect with other bird lovers. Guided trips range from intensive all day trips to more relaxing walks in our local birding hot spots.

You must pre-register for field trips by calling (360) 357-9170.



You can pledge yourself or have your friends and family pledge you. It's a unique and highly effective way to support Black Hills Audubon Society. Look for more information on Guided Birdathon Trips in the next ECHO. For more information contact the Birdathon Coordinator Sheila McCartan at blackhillsbirdathon@comcast.net or call (360) 357-9170. 🐦

Swallows and Feathers

by Chris Maynard

By providing the right kind of feathers in the right way, you can easily attract swallows. Every spring, swallows search for the best soft materials to improve the comfort and warmth of their nests. Soft and downy feathers are perfect and swallows get excited when they find a good source.

These birds possess remarkable flying skills. Watching them collect feathers for their nests offers hours of entertainment.

What feathers are best? Birds like the softer downy curved feathers to line their nests. They will not use large-shafted straight tail and wing feathers. Natural colors work well though the swallows can get used to brightly-colored dyed feathers too. Swallows will pick up one-inch feathers but they prefer larger ones. They get quite animated finding a five to seven-inch goose or turkey flank feather. Their nests are about 6 inches wide so one large curved feather goes a long way to cover the bottom, kind of like a wall-to-wall carpet. A big perfect large feather is a rare find so the little birds must experiment to learn how to grab and fly with them.



Swallows will sometimes land to pick up a feather though they usually grab them off the ground while flying since these birds are not efficient hoppers or walkers. When providing nest materials on the ground, just make sure that the area is even, free from obstructions, and has plenty of space for the birds to make their approach and exit flights Swallows are very cautious when they pick feathers off the ground in flight. Several practice approaches serve to help the bird to know if a feather grab is safe. This makes sense as they are zooming down beak-first at 20 miles an hour to pick up a feather on the ground. They are safer grabbing feathers in the air.

A feather floating in the instantly attracts swallows looking for nest materials. Provide this and become quickly popular with the local swallows in the spring. With the right wind, launching feathers by hand works well, but usually the plumes drift quickly and disappointingly to the ground. A fun trick is to launch feathers from a ten-foot, one-inch wide plastic pipe. Place a feather at one end and blow into the air from the other end like a dart gun. After a few days, the swallows catch on that airborne feathers are being offered when they see the pipe raised.

For the larger feathers, the birds have to learn how

Continued on page 12

Refrigerator pages

Check the BHAS Website for more trips that may have been added since the Echo went to print (<http://www.blackhills-audubon.org>)

March

March 6th, Saturday, 7:30 am, Birding by Ear, McLane Nature Trail

March 6th, Saturday, 5:00 pm, Black Hills Audubon Society Annual Dinner/Auction, Olympia Center

March 7th, Saturday, 8:30 am - 4 pm, Field Trip to Hood Canal

March 13th, Saturday, 8:00 pm, Field Trip: Experimental Owl Prowl, Capital Forest

March 19-21, Fri-Sun., Spring ACOW (Audubon Chapters of Washington), Kent, WA-**CANCELLED**

April

April 3rd, Saturday, 7:30 am, Birding by Ear, McLane Nature Trail

April 3rd, Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm Field Trip: Skokomish Delta

April 15th, Thursday, 7-9pm, Monthly Program Meeting, presentation by Chris Maynard, "Feathers are for the Bird(er)s".

April 18th, Sunday, 8 a.m. Field Trip to Black Lake Meadows

April 30th - May 2nd, Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival
<http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

April 30th, Friday, 7pm, 2010 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival
Dessert Reception, Keynote Speaker: Craig Lee, *Bird Conservation Without Borders*

May

May 8th, Saturday, 3 hour Birdathon Walk on Olympia's Waterfront

Field Trip/Event Details

March 6th, Saturday, 7:30 am

Birding by Ear

Leader: Jean MacGregor

Location: McLane Nature Trail

The group will meet at McLane Nature Trail parking lot at 7:30 a.m. for a two-hour stroll on the McLane Trails, practicing birding by ear, and watching for both the migrants and residents of early spring. Beginners, as well as more experienced birders, are welcome. Please sign up by calling the BHAS message phone at 360-352-7299. Limit 12.

March 6th, Saturday

Black Hills Audubon Society Annual Dinner/Auction

5:00 pm: Social Time/Auction Perusal

5:45 pm: Dinner Begins

Location: Olympia Center, Olympia

Our featured speaker is David Jennings. David has a long history with BHAS. Back in the 90's he serviced in a variety of positions on our board. In 2006 we honored him as our Conservationist of the Year for his efforts on behalf of our native forests.

David is currently a member of the Pacific Northwest Advanced Assessment Team of REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation, a non-profit organization of recreational divers who regularly conduct biodiversity and abundance surveys during their dives). His photographic presentation, **UNDERWATER WILDLIFE OF PUGET SOUND: the amazing fish and invertebrates in our back yard**, will give us a special opportunity to glimpse our amazing neighboring undersea world and to learn about current marine conservation issues. For additional background on David's talk, please see his article **Tigers And Chinns and Canaries, Oh My!** in the November/December 2009 issue of *The Echo*.

Another important component of the evening will be the presentation of our two major awards: the Jack Davis Environmentalist of the Year award and the recently established Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year award.

The Auction, once again silent only, succeeds when we have wonderful items to offer. The best items, from past experience, are field trips or unique experience items involving birding, wildlife,

botany, gardening, or boating. We also love to offer art, craft, book, and jewelry items with bird/wildlife/plant themes. A word of warning: art/photographic items valued above \$200 rarely produce bids worthy of the item. Less expensive items fare better, especially in these difficult economic times.

If you have something to donate, please call or e-mail Margery Beeler (360-352-5437; mswampcat@aol.com) or Meagan Thorn (360-754-5557; mithorn@comcast.net). We must have advance notice of anything you plan to donate.

Also if you can help with setting up for the dinner (about 2 pm), helping at the dinner itself or with cleanup, we would be deeply grateful. Please contact Margery or Meagan.

We plan an evening of good company, good information, good opportunities to socialize and good food. Most of these rely on you for your contributions. We hope you will bring a wonderful dish to share at the potluck and cash or checks (sorry: we can't handle credit/debit cards) to pay for the auction items on which you bid generously. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you.

March 7th, Sunday, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Field Trip: Hood Canal

Leader: Andrew Beelik

We'll do the traditional sweep of promising estuaries along the west shore of the Canal. We'll check Purdy Creek for Dippers and the Skokomish

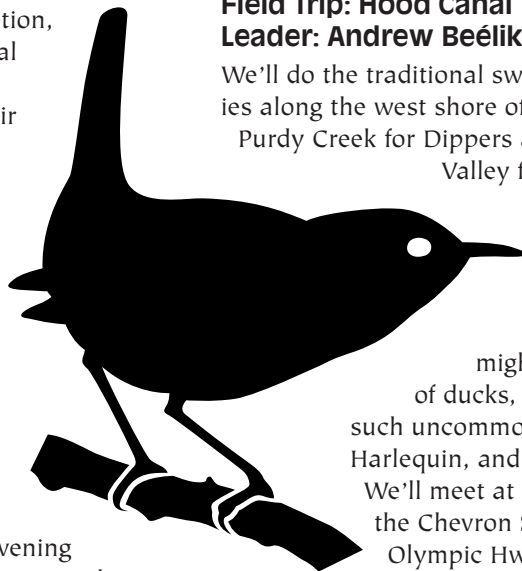
Valley for swans. Wintering

waterfowl will still be around and they attract raptors. Passerines will be incidental along the shoreline. We

might see up to 15 species of ducks, among them, with luck, such uncommon ones as Black Scoter, Harlequin, and Hooded Merganser.

We'll meet at 8:30 am in Shelton at the Chevron Station at Arcadia and Olympic Hwy S. Limit three vehicles, 12 persons. Sign up with Andrew

at (360) 426-6262. You may also join us at the picnic area of Potlatch State Park, provided you had signed up. The trip continues from the Park at 9:30. At the end of the day, we'll touch on the Park on the way to Shelton. Bring lunch, walking will not exceed one mile.



Field Trip/Event Details

From previous page

Saturday, March 13, 8 pm to midnight-ish
Field Trip: Experimental Owl Prowl, Capital Forest
Leader: Gary Wiles

This is a new experimental trip to Capital Forest in an attempt to listen for and hopefully see some owls. We expect that Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy, Barred, and Great Horned Owls are all present in the forest, but have no idea if we will be successful in locating any of them.

Participants should dress in their most quiet, least "rustley" clothing, bring a flashlight, and not be too afraid of the dark, or too nervous about wandering around in Capital Forest in the dark. Be prepared to be very quiet. We will most likely be in Grays Harbor County as well as Thurston County.

This trip will be limited to 8 people, in no more than two cars. We will meet at the Labor and Industries parking lot in Tumwater. Please call Gary Wiles at 360-943-8786 for reservations to reserve a spot.

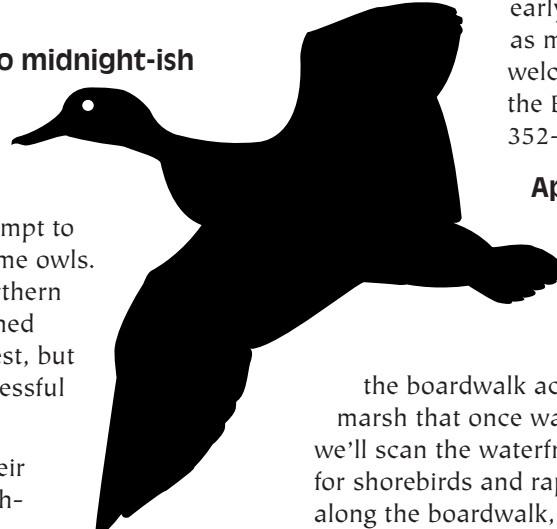
March 19-21, Fri., Sat., Sun.,
Event: Spring ACOW (Audubon Chapters of Washington)

CANCELLED
ACOW (Audubon Chapters of Washington) is held twice a year, hosted by a different county in a different location in Washington each year. There are numerous opportunities for workshops, field trips, and camaraderie. It is also a chance to get together with other chapters in this state to share what we are doing and to provide coordination of efforts on certain issues. These specifically include conservation and education. It is also a chance to have some fun by visiting other birding areas around the state. Birding field trips include Kent Ponds and Boeing Ponds!

April 3rd, Saturday, 7:30 am
Field Trip: Birding by Ear
Leader: Jean MacGregor
Location: McLane Nature Trail

The group will meet at McLane Nature Trail parking lot at 7:30 a.m. for a two-hour stroll on

the McLane Trails, practicing birding by ear, and watching for both the migrants and residents of early spring. Beginners, as well as more experienced birders, are welcome. Please sign up by calling the BHAS message phone at 360-352-7299 Limit 12.



April 3rd, Saturday, 9 am
- 2 pm Field Trip:
Skokomish Delta
Leader: Andrew Beélik

Joining members of the Skokomish Tribe, we'll walk the boardwalk across the re-emerging salt marsh that once was the Nalley Farm. After that we'll scan the waterfront along the spit looking for shorebirds and raptors (with luck a Peregrine) along the boardwalk, and waterfowl on the Canal.

Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Lucky Dog Casino along US Hwy 101. We'll walk about 3 miles and return to the casino by 2 pm. Limit 12 BHAS members. Sign up With Andrew, 360-426-6262, or Bethany Tropp, 360-877-5213.

April 18th, Sunday, 8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Black Lake Meadows
Leader: Gary Wiles

Join Gary for birding at Black Lake Meadows in southwestern Olympia to look for early spring migrants, including Rufous Hummingbirds, Orange-crowned Warblers, various swallows, and others. While the typical birding is not astoundingly diverse, there is a steady stream of migrants and resident birds. Occasionally an unusual species shows up here, such as Yellow-breasted Chat. Meet at the site's entrance on Mottman Road at 8 a.m.

There is a limit of 12 for this trip. Call Gary at 360-943-8786 for reservations, and directions if needed. Dress for the weather.

April 30th - May 2nd
Event: Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival
<http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

April 30th, Friday, 7pm
2010 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Dessert Reception. Keynote Speaker: Craig Lee, *Bird Conservation Without Borders*, Central Elementary School, Hoquiam

Meet a Volunteer: Patt Brady

—Deb Jaqua

Many Black Hills Audubon folks know her as “The Plant Lady” from the BHAS Annual Dinner/Auction...the one who brings highly sought-after healthy plants to sell at the Dinner such as red raspberries, hardy cyclamen, rhubarb, daylilies, red flowering currants, kiwis, flowering quince, and campanula to name just a few.

What you may not know is that for more than a decade, Patt has been collecting, propagating, and growing over 200 different types of plants that she donates to several charitable organizations for fund-raising; BHAS is just one of six! Among the others are the Nisqually Land Trust, American Cancer Society, and a cancer support group at Group Health Cooperative—long before she was diagnosed with cancer, herself. Now, as a cancer survivor, she knows in a very personal way how important fund-raising efforts are. In 2006, her plants raised nearly \$5000 at the various sales and auctions.

Her two-acre farm on the edge of an oak woodland is a highly organized nursery operation of which any gardener would be envious. Patt’s organizational skills once again show themselves; even in winter, before new sprouts start to poke through the soil looking for the warm sun, she knows where each group of plants is located and which ones will be offered at the next event. What a lovely concept: growing plants, not to make money for yourself, but as a way to bring in funds for non-profit organizations that you believe in.

Prior to Patt’s “retirement” (the quotes are used because her many volunteer outlets would equal more than a full time job for many of us), she worked as an auditor for DSHS. Before that, she taught in schools in New York, Hawaii, and Georgia. Patt said, “Fourth grade was my big love.” Patt is still teaching those around her about living life with passion and a generous heart as big as all outdoors.

Thank you, Patt!! 🌿



BHAS offers partial scholarship for a teen to attend bird-banding camp

Over the past 6 years, Puget Sound Bird Observatory has partnered with Seattle Audubon to offer a four-day four-night bird-banding camp for teens ages 15-18 years old. The location is in a primitive campground within Wenatchee National Forest. Teens learn the basics of net placement, extraction and handling, ageing, and sexing. A special emphasis is placed on the use of molt to age birds. The camp will be held August 2010 with exact dates still to be determined.

Black Hills Audubon is offering a partial scholarship in the amount of \$400 to help pay for the cost of attending the camp. The remainder of the

cost, \$150, would need to be paid by the applicant. The scholarship is open to any teen, ages 15-18, from Lewis, Mason, or Thurston County. No prior birding or banding experience is necessary. To apply, send a letter of interest, including two references, to: Black Hills Audubon Society c/o Banding Scholarship, PO Box 2524 Olympia, WA 98507. The application deadline is June 30, 2010. For more information on the camp, please see Seattle Audubon’s website at: www.seattleaudubon.org. Click on “Environmental Education and High School Programs”. For all other questions, please contact Tracey Scalici at trscalici@gmail.com. 🌿

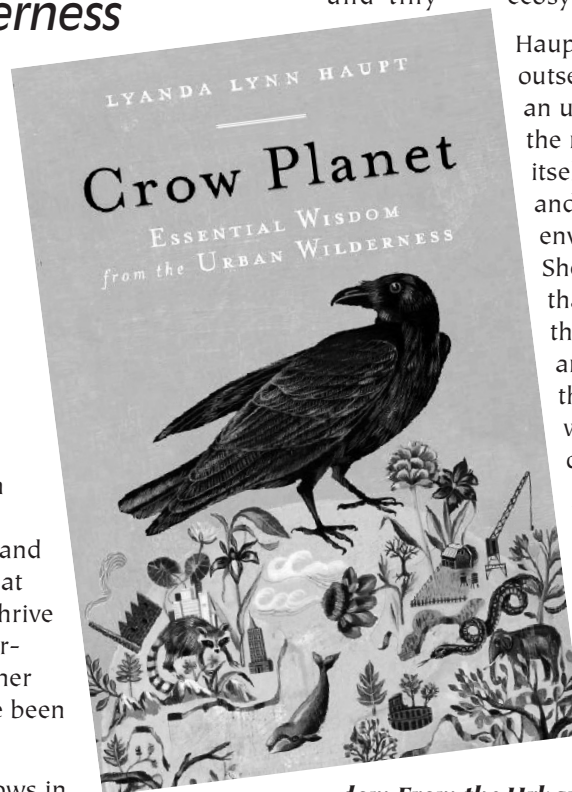
Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom From The Urban Wilderness

Life on Earth is complicated, interconnected, and always changing—environmental and philosophical truths that Lyanda Lynn Haupt, as a naturalist, author, wife, and mother, knows all too well. Her new book, *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness* (July 27, 2009; Little, Brown and Company; \$23.99), documents Haupt's journey to becoming an "urban naturalist" through the study of crows—the big, gutsy, boisterous, intelligent, and sometimes unsettling birds that have managed to adapt and thrive in expanding urban and suburban areas, where so many other species of native wildlife have been pushed back.

Haupt's book is a study of crows in both a natural and social sense: she examines their habits, physiology, and skills alongside their cultural reputation (in America and elsewhere) and describes the ways in which human and crow populations directly and indirectly interact. Crows recognize our faces, dive-bomb familiar antagonists, and nurse their sick and injured kin. They drop hard-shelled nuts on the street to be cracked by passing cars—then wait at a crosswalk to retrieve the goods. Smart, playful, and always on the lookout for new opportunities, crows have had a special place in the human consciousness for centuries.

Haupt is the author of *Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent*, which was praised by the Los Angeles Times for its "provocative originality." *Crow Planet* is a fresh, intrepid mix of science writing and memoir, highlighting the personal impact of the world we encounter every day. Despite having a husband she adores and a precocious young daughter, Haupt found city life stifling and barren and was determined to find nature in a concrete-covered urban landscape. Haupt's process of observing crows drew

her first out of bed, then out of her house, and finally into the "wilds" of Seattle, where she became increasingly aware of the broad natural connections and tiny ecosystems surrounding her life.



Haupt's personal goal at the outset of this book—to become an urban naturalist, attuned to the natural world as it manifests itself in cities and suburbs, roads and homes—is part of her own environmental call to arms. She encourages readers to realize that nature is found not only in the pristine wilderness but all around us, and to understand that what affects the natural world comes directly back into our lives. Crows—as they hunt, play, grow, and learn right in the midst of the human world—are intriguing avatars for the urban ecosystems and natural cycles that surround us every day: complex, overlooked, and immensely important.

Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom From the Urban Wilderness by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, July 27, 2009. Hardcover, \$23.99, 240 pages

Lyanda Lynn Haupt is an author and naturalist based in Seattle. Her first book, *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds* (Sasquatch, 2001), was a winner of the 2002 Washington State Book Award. Her second book, *Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent: The Importance of Everything and Other Lessons from Darwin's Lost Notebooks*, received positive reviews nationwide.



Haupt has created and directed educational programs for Seattle Audubon, worked in raptor rehabilitation in Vermont, and been a seabird researcher for the Fish and Wildlife Service in the remote tropical Pacific. Her writing has appeared in *Image*, *Open Spaces*, *Wild Earth*, *Conservation Biology Journal*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, and *The Prairie Naturalist*. ✦

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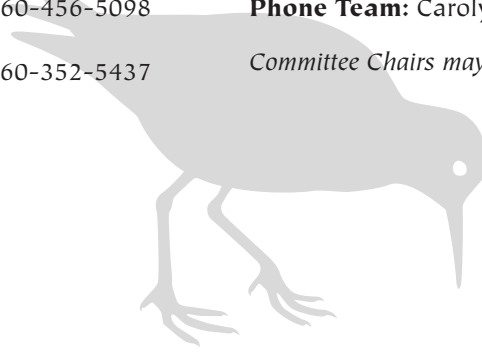
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Committee Chairs may also serve as Board Members.

* BHAS Board Member



Black Hills Audubon Society
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Phone: 360-352-7299 (Messages)
Website: www.blackhills-audubon.org
E-mail: 4info@blackhills-audubon.org

Black Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit organization. A member chapter of the National Audubon Society, it represents Audubon members in Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties.

Our goals are to maintain, restore and protect our ecosystems for future generations, and to promote environmental education and nature-based recreation.

Monthly program meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through June, at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Street, in Olympia.

Board meetings are usually at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The site varies from month to month; please call the message phone number to inquire as to the location. Phone and e-mail messages are welcome, but please remember that we are a volunteer-based organization, and it may take us a few days to get back to you.

The Echo is published bi-monthly. Editor: Deb Jaqua. Layout and design by Lee Miller. Graphics by Nature Icons/Ultimate Symbol unless initialed.

Material for *The Echo* should be sent to PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mailed to Deb Jaqua at webdeb1@gmail.com. The deadline for the May/June 2010 issue of *The Echo* is March 29.

Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS) Membership form

Type of Membership—check appropriate box

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter (BHAS) only

Singles or household

- \$20, regular member
- \$35, regular member for 2 years
- \$50, regular member for 3 years,
- \$15, senior or full-time student
- \$25, senior or full-time student for 2 years
- \$35, senior or full-time student for 3 years

Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.

All dues go to support local Black Hills Audubon chapter efforts.

Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*, which describes local chapter conservation action, events, and field trips.

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter and National Audubon (both)

- \$20, first-time member price
- \$15, Senior or full-time student

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Renewals: please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to National Audubon. Thanks!

Most of the dues go to support national efforts.

Receive the award-winning national magazine, *Audubon*, and the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*.

Chapter: C 9 Z Y12 0 Z

Subscription only—receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo* (does not include membership)

- \$10 chapter newsletter only

Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.

Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*

- I would like to help Black Hills Audubon's programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Renewals: please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to National Audubon. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/zip _____

Phone/Email _____

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to the appropriate address:

Black Hills Audubon Society is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership
Black Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 2524
Olympia WA 98507

Membership
National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th floor
New York, NY 10014

Thank you for supporting the Black Hills Audubon Society!



Black Hills Audubon Society
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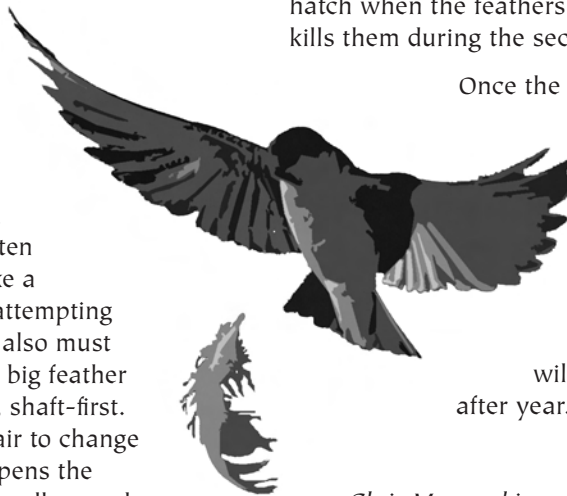
Feathers

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to catch and fly with them. Early in the season, they make hesitant attempts to catch the bigger five to six-inch feathers. Once they learn how, the birds become adept at mid-air grabs. Both the male and female swallows collect feathers, often working in pairs. Their mouths make a small snap sound when closing or attempting to close on a feather. The swallows also must learn that the best way to fly with a big feather is to carry it curved under the body, shaft-first. So feathers are often dropped mid-air to change to the best position. When this happens the feather may get seized by another swallow and a chase is on.

Migratory bird feathers are illegal to possess; swallows use them but birders cannot. Barnyard fowl are a good source. However, chickens, turkeys and geese may have parasites like mites. Place future swallow nest feathers in a 0° F. freezer for 48 hours, remove

for 48 hours and freeze again for a 48 hours. This kills adult parasites the first freeze, lets any remaining eggs hatch when the feathers are out of the freezer, and kills them during the second freeze.



Once the swallows discover a source for feathers, they will return from nests miles away. Eventually, the birds will recognize you as a consistent feather provider and circle when you come out your door. Once your yard is known as a source, they will return again and again, year after year. 🦉

—Chris Maynard

*Chris Maynard is a member of Black Hills Audubon. A biologist by training, his talk, **Feathers are for the Bird(er)s**, will be the featured presentation for the April 15th Monthly Program Meeting. Chris also has a website, **Featherfolio.com**, devoted to photographs of feathers from around the world.*